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CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (04/29): VIOLENCE IN GAZA AND  
DEBATING FORMS OF RESISTANCE

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Main Stories:  
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Graphic photos of the four children killed along with their mother after an Israeli shell hit their house on April 28 in Gaza were displayed on the front-paged of Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida. On a black background covering the upper half of its front-page, Al-Ayyam and ran a banner headline in red type, "The breakfast of death in Beit Hanoun: Killing a mother and her four children." The front pages of the three dailies reported that Palestinian President Abbas condemned the "Israeli aggression on Gaza" and renewed calls for state of calm. Other reports stated that the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza on April 28 reached seven.

The dailies highlighted coverage of the anticipated building of a new Israeli settlement in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras al-Amud, east of Jerusalem. Israeli sources reported that the new Israeli settlement will be constructed on land that used to encompass Israeli police stations.

The dailies reported that the Israeli authorities opened, but did not remove a major checkpoint near Nablus. Al-Quds carried a picture showing Palestinians trying to remove the metal gate at the checkpoint. Related front-page reports stated that Quartet envoy Tony Blair submitted to the Israeli Minister of Defense a list of checkpoints that "must be removed."

Ma'an reported that the Palestinian Intelligence Services seized a stockpile of weapons and explosives in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on April 28, quoting intelligence officials that the

armaments belonged to a Hamas cell. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida ran a picture showing the seized equipment.

Citing a White House statement issued on April 28, Al-Ayyam reported that President Bush will visit Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, May 13-18, but that there are no plans for a joint peace summit with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Ma'an quoted Palestinian security sources that three prisoners had escaped from a Palestinian Authority prison in the West Bank city of Jericho on April 28.

The dailies reported that a Palestinian military court in the West Bank city of Hebron sentenced a Palestinian security officer to death by firing squad after he was found guilty of treason and collaboration with Israel.

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BLOCK QUOTES:  
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11. In its main editorial entitled, "Why are women and children being killed?", independent Al-Quds opined (4/29): "The Palestinian public may have its own criticisms of Hamas, but the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and West Bank alike make one wonder about the Israeli logic. Israel not only rejects a comprehensive quiet in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but also hinders any efforts to achieve a limited quiet in Gaza .... Israeli society must realize that targeting civilians, including women and children, and the absolute reliance on the logic of force to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict has never been nor will it ever be an efficient basis for achieving peace and stability in the region. Quite the contrary, it remains the recipe for more violence and

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counter-violence and bloodshed on both sides."

12. Commentator Moaffaq Matar wrote in official Al-Hayat Al-Jadida under the headline, "War and the end of a family," (4/29): "We should have learned from previous lessons when, last month, the Israeli occupation forces killed 120 victims in three days.... It has become evident that the occupation army, through its shelling of civilian and military targets alike, has blown up the so-called red lines and all ethics and rules of war. The victims and those injured were mostly innocent civilians.... That said, the talk here is not about our right for self defense, freedom or independence. Rather, we are talking about our right to debate the ways [of resistance] that would best ensure the safety and security of our citizens and help them remain steadfast in their homes and land."

WALLES